

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Christopher Scott "Chris" Kyle of Midlothian, Texas.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely and tragic death of Christopher Scott "Chris" Kyle, a true American hero; and

WHEREAS, Chris Kyle was a former member of the United States Navy and America's most prolific sniper, a veteran who bravely served four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, a bestselling author, an individual who dedicated his time and energies toward helping veterans in need, and a loving family man; and

WHEREAS, born in Odessa, Texas, Mr. Kyle was the son of a Sunday School teacher and a deacon. After graduating high school, he became a professional bronco rodeo rider until a severe injury to his arm brought an abrupt end to his career; and

WHEREAS, following his convalescence, Chris Kyle was interested in joining the United States Marine Corps, but after speaking with a Navy recruiter, he decided to join the Navy instead, intent on becoming a member of the elite Navy SEALs; and

WHEREAS, initially rejected from SEAL training because of his arm injury, Mr. Kyle attended Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL school, becoming a member of the United States Navy in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Chris Kyle was a valorous member of SEAL Team Three, Sniper Element Charlie platoon, a part of the Naval Special Warfare Command, and served more than four tours of duty and participated in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, during his service, which took place during the worst years of the insurgency, Mr. Kyle was charged with protecting his fellow soldiers, called "overwatch," and to accomplish this important task, he would perch in or on top of buildings with his weapon and prevent enemy fighters from ambushing Marine units; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the Navy, Chris Kyle became the most lethal sniper in American military history with 255 claimed kills, 160 of which have been confirmed, including one in which he took out an insurgent from the distance of 2,100 yards, or nearly two kilometers; and

WHEREAS, he was so deadly during his deployment to Ramedì, in fact, that the insurgents placed a bounty of \$20,000 on his head, a bounty which eventually increased to \$80,000. The enemy dubbed him *Shaitan Ar-Ramedì*, or “The Devil of Ramedì,” as a result of his deadly accuracy as a marksman; and

WHEREAS, even though he was hunted and hated by the enemy, and even though he was shot twice and experienced Improvised Explosive Device explosions, Chris Kyle completed his deployments with honor and distinction, and was discharged from the Navy in 2009, after which he dedicated himself to his family and to those veterans in need; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Kyle earned a number of military awards and distinctions, including the Silver Star with one award star, the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device and four award stars, the Purple Heart with one award star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one award star, the Combat Action Ribbon with one award star, the Navy Good Conduct Medal with two service stars, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with one campaign star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with three service stars, the Marksmanship Medal for Rifle Expert, and the Marksmanship Medal for Pistol Expert; and

WHEREAS, following his return stateside, Chris Kyle moved to Midlothian with his wife and children, and there he ran Craft International, which provides military, law enforcement, and civilian training and private security and protection. He also worked with FITCO Cares Foundation, a non-profit organization which worked with veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, in-need veterans with disabilities, and Gold Star families; and

WHEREAS, Chris Kyle’s autobiography, *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*, was published by Harper Collins in 2012, and it went

on to become a *New York Times* bestseller. A generous and thoughtful man, he donated all proceeds from the sale of his autobiography to the families of two friends, SEAL members killed in combat Ryan Job and Marc Lee; and

WHEREAS, he was perhaps proudest of the love and support he shared with his wife, Taya, and their two children; and

WHEREAS, Chris Kyle leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and humble human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Christopher Scott Kyle, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kyle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.